Abstract

The Babylonians were facing mysterious powers that control their fate. So they started to search carefully for an explanation to the phenomena which is surrounding them. Then, they related these observations in a causal manner with the events which were personal or national and they recorded observations on clay tablets as a series of events along with astronomical remarks and their reflexions on the behavior of the animals around them and their internal physiology.

They also noticed the location of the city or house and their security; the lives of king and princes; the changes that appear on the face of the human being in the ancient Mesopotamia and so on. All these things were collected by those who have a say and put in the form of tables on cuneiform tablets arranged according to their subject which are considered as a history source for the various happenings that took place in the different periods of the historical of Mesopotamia.

I have chosen this subject because of the great importance of the old Babylonian omens in the life of people at that time which sheds light on the social and religious life of the Babylonians. Moreover, the omens talk about a number of significant historical events of Mesopotamia in the old Babylonian period.

This thesis is divided into six chapters. Chapter one talks about the omens of planets, stars, astrological phenomena and numbers.

Chapter two comprises two sections: the first section deals with animal omens, which make a big category; while the second

section is devoted to the omens of ants, the Ur insect and the moth.

Chapter three is about the omens of liver, kidney and gall bladder in addition to a brief review of the interpretation of dreams.

Chapter four consists of four sections which are civil omens, houses omens, doors and lock and key omens respectively.

Chapter five consists of three parts which are: kings and princes omens; birth, human face, and bathing omens respectively.

The sixth and last chapter deals in its first part with agricultural, trees and plants omens whereas the second part is devoted to wells and canals omens.